

## **Aston Abbotts Village Magazine**



***Royal Oak is the place!  
Village Free Pop up Cinema  
Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April at  
7.30pm***



**And much more**

## ***From the Editor***

Hello fellow Abbotts.

I've heard that our Councillor Colin Higgs would have served 50 years on the Parish Council this year. He has worked long and hard for our village and I and others believe it would be a fitting tribute for the PC to nominate Colin for an OBE for services to the community. How about it Chairperson, Kate Curry?

Please don't forget the **Residents Annual Parish Meeting at the Village hall on WEDNESDAY 19<sup>th</sup> APRIL AT 7.30PM. Plus our village charity Quiz Night at the Royal Oak Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 and the Village Pop Up Cinema, again at the Royal Oak Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30. All details with this month's magazine**

Don't forget to contact me if you want to join a group from the village for a tour of the Houses of

Parliament and watching Prime Minister's Questions from the prestigious Speakers Gallery on June 21<sup>st</sup>. (I hope the recent London incident doesn't change the trip). The winners will be drawn at the Quiz Night on April 9<sup>th</sup> at the Royal Oak Pub. Your details to; [pete10lucas@aol.com](mailto:pete10lucas@aol.com)

In this month's edition:

**Our newly refurbished Village Hall is open again.**

**Much from the Parish Council**

**Aston Abbotts Horticultural Society Autumn Show details**

**News from the Abbotts View Farm**

**The Astonians**

**Allotment News**

**Church Matters and much more.....**

**Pete**



***Aston Abbotts Parish Council has a vacancy for Clerk to the Parish Council / Responsible Finance Officer.***

This is a part time role of around 25 hours per month which involves working from home and attending evening meetings (roughly nine meetings per year plus occasional committee meetings).

The Clerk's responsibilities include preparation of agendas and minute taking for council meetings and committees, liaising with outside bodies, advising on procedures, actioning the council's

decisions, acting as the council's financial officer and keeping the council's financial records.

This is a very varied role, which will require you to have basic computer skills, including word processing and spreadsheet maintenance and internet access (laptop provided); and most importantly a flexible attitude.

A full hand-over will be given and training will be offered to the successful applicant.

For further information contact the Chairman, Kate Curry, at [norduck@hotmail.com](mailto:norduck@hotmail.com) or telephone 01296 681137.

Please apply in writing with a copy of your CV to the Chairman:

Cllr Kate Curry  
[norduck@hotmail.com](mailto:norduck@hotmail.com)

2, Norduck Cottages, Moat Lane, Aston Abbotts, Aylesbury, HP22 4NF

## ***Annual Parish Meeting***

The Annual Parish meeting will take place on Wednesday 19th April at 7.30pm in our newly refurbished Village Hall. This is not a parish council meeting, but a much older and more historic tradition, **when the people of the village meet together to talk about community matters.**

This is the meeting when everyone can discuss village issues and events, such as The Chronicle, Bonfire Night and the Fete. It is a chance to meet and ask questions of your District and County Councillors and hear a report from the local Police. Also included on this year's agenda is a chance to air your views about the increased traffic coming through the village and whether or not you think any traffic calming measures should be put into place.

Everyone is welcome to come along, either to listen or to air your views.

## **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2017**

**THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
WILL TAKE PLACE ON  
WEDNESDAY 19<sup>th</sup> APRIL AT  
7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL.**

### **AGENDA**

- 1. Apologies**
- 2. To approve minutes of meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2016**
- 3. Matters arising**
- 4. County Council, District Council and Police reports**
- 5. Annual report from the Parish Council Chairman**
- 6. Traffic and Traffic Calming - discussion**
- 7. Village Hall Trust update**
- 8. Chronicle**
- 9. Bonfire Night 2017**
- 10. Fete 2016 report, Fete 2017 – Distribution of profits.**
- 11. A.O.B.**

**WE HOPE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO JOIN US.**

# ***Aston Abbotts***

## ***Parish Council News***

### **April Public Parish Council Meeting**

The **2017 Annual Parish Meeting** will be on **Wednesday 19th April at 7.30pm** in the village hall. This is a public meeting and all villagers are welcome to attend.

More details and the agenda will follow closer to the time. For now, please just put the date in your diary.

Aston Abbotts Parish Council has a vacancy for **Clerk to the Parish Council / Responsible Finance Officer**.

This is a part time role of around 25 hours per month which involves working from home and attending evening meetings (roughly nine meetings per year plus occasional committee meetings).

The Clerk's responsibilities include preparation of agendas and minute taking for council meetings and committees, liaising with outside bodies, advising on procedures,

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For further information contact the Chairman, Kate Curry, at [norduck@hotmail.com](mailto:norduck@hotmail.com) or telephone 01296 681137.

Please apply in writing with a copy of your CV to the Chairman:

Cllr Kate Curry

[norduck@hotmail.com](mailto:norduck@hotmail.com)

2, Norduck Cottages, Moat Lane, Aston Abbotts, Aylesbury, HP22 4NF

Closing date for applications:

Friday 21st April

## **DRAFT Minutes of meeting** **number 2/17**

Held in St James' Church on  
Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017

**Present:** - Cllrs. Mrs K Curry  
(Chair), C Higgs, P  
Shorrocks, P Spooner,  
Mrs J Hardcastle, R  
Clarke, District Cllr P  
Cooper, Mrs Z Ayres  
(Clerk) and one  
member of the public

The chopping up of the fallen tree  
on the recreation ground was  
discussed and it was AGREED to  
request a quote from Kevin Copping  
and ask him to deal with it as long  
as it cost no more than £50.

- Play around the Parishes –  
booked for Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August, 10  
– 12.

Devolved Grass Cutting update,  
Lynch's were proposing to start  
cutting the grass at the end of the  
month. The members requested  
that a clear system was set up to  
monitor when they had visited.

Cllr N Glover answered a  
question from a Cllr regarding  
the cost of new gates being  
erected in Cublington and  
whether the LAF might fund  
something similar in Aston

Abbotts. She answered that she  
would investigate the matter.

Cllr P Cooper informed the  
members that there was no news  
from BT re: Broadband but should  
be received in the next couple of  
weeks.

**Council Matters:** The Clerk's  
resignation was discussed. The  
Chairman informed the Council that  
the post had been advertised via  
the Postie, The Chronicle, The  
Wingrave Communique and the  
BALC website. It was AGREED to  
have a closing date for application  
of Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April. It was AGREED  
for Cllrs Curry, Shorrocks and  
Hardcastle to form an interview  
Committee with Cllr Spooner in  
reserve.

- The creation of a 'Complaints'  
Committee was discussed and it  
was AGREED for Cllrs Curry,  
Spooners and Shorrocks to form  
this.

### **Highways**

- The gritting of Lines Hill was  
discussed and it was AGREED for  
Cllr Curry to contact Zoe Ford to  
establish what criteria are  
required to make a road qualify  
for gritting.

### *Planning*

AVDC's response to the PC's  
Complaint re: 55 the Green and it

was AGREED to write back to

## Highways

- The gritting of Lines Hill was discussed and it was AGREED for Cllr Curry to contact Zoe Ford to establish what criteria are required to make a road qualify for gritting.
  - The possible streetlight in Moat Lane was discussed but it was AGREED that the cost of a new streetlight would be better spent elsewhere in the Village.
  - The LAF report was discussed. Cllr Clarke informant the members that there was to be a fall in local Police numbers from 40 – 20, also that the AVDC were increasing their budget by 3.9%.
  - The Manhole cover outside the church was discussed and Cllr N Glover agreed to chase the matter up urgently.
  - The issue of Parking in Bricstock and the Inner Green was discussed and it was AGREED that this was a highways issue.
  - the Council, and copy Cllr P Cooper in on the correspondence.
  - The following planning application was discussed: 17/00459/APP: Land Adj. Windmill Hill Barns, Erection of two semi-detached dwelling houses and garages and it was REOLVED to object to the application for the following reasons:
    - This is a small site on a narrow country lane. Although some parking has been allowed for, it is likely that with two 4 bedroomed homes, there will be overspill. This lane is busy and any cars parked on it would create a serious traffic hazard.
    - The PC are also concerned that the flow of cars, in and out of this site, would be dangerous as the site is situated just after a sharp bend. The entrance is not only to the two proposed houses, but also for farm traffic to the field beyond.
    - This site is on a narrow country lane, with a blind bend half way down, which does not have a footpath down to the village. Accommodating 2 extra families on this lane (possibly with young children or elderly residents) who wish to access the village amenities would mean more pedestrians walking on this hazardous road.
- AAPC feel that the proposal for two houses is too high-density for the size of plot. This area is still deemed an area of Attractive Landscape which would be further obscured by the over development of the site.

The options were discussed and it was RESOLVED to appoint Aylesbury Mains as the new Street Lighting Contractor.

It was confirmed that the next **Parish Council Meeting** would be held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2017 at 7.30pm the Village Hall

**Cublington Parish Council has a vacancy for Clerk to the Parish Council / Responsible Finance Officer.**

This is a part time role of around 20 hours per month which involves working from home and attending evening meetings (roughly eight meetings per year plus occasional committee meetings).

The Clerk's responsibilities include preparation of agendas and minute taking for council meetings and committees, liaising with outside bodies, advising on procedures, actioning the council's decisions, acting as the

council's financial officer and keeping the council's financial records. This is a very varied role, which will require you to have basic computer skills, including word processing and spreadsheet maintenance and internet access (laptop provided); and most importantly a flexible attitude.

A full hand-over will be given and training will be offered to the successful applicant.

For further information please email [cublingtonpc.clerk@gmail.com](mailto:cublingtonpc.clerk@gmail.com) or telephone 01296 682917.

**Please apply in writing with a copy of your CV to the Chairman:**



**Aston Abbotts Village Hall  
news – April 2017  
PLEASE SEE INSIDE BACK  
PAGE FOR PHOTOS OF OUR  
NEW VILLAGE HALL**

**The works**

**We are OPEN again!** At the time of writing the new front door, a storage shed, and a couple of smaller outside jobs remain. But we hope you love the new-look hall as much as we do!

**What's new?**

- Access ramp all the way from pavement level to new red doormat
- New inside toilet, big enough for wheelchairs, walking frames and pushchairs
- New, level floors throughout
- Sparkling mouse-proof kitchen
- Rewired with new heaters, lights (and rig for spotlights)

- Redecorated
- New furniture

**Bookings**

It's time to say a big **THANK YOU** to Tracy Hinds for managing the bookings for such a long time. We are looking for another volunteer (see below), but for now, you can email bookings to [astonabbottsvillagehall@yahoo.com](mailto:astonabbottsvillagehall@yahoo.com) or ring Nigel Palmer (01296 681152) or Caroline Lane (01296 681373)

We are keeping to current rates (£6 per hour for residents, plus metered electricity for heating) until 1 September, when they go up to £7.50 per hour. See our full table of rates elsewhere in the Chronicle

**Re-opening ceremony**

Our formal ceremony will be 2pm on **Saturday 20 May**, when we will invite our funders and Judy Hardcastle will cut the ribbon. Everyone welcome!

**Managing the hall – volunteers needed**

The Trustees are still responsible for the hall, but we want to bring in others, especially representatives of user groups. Could you help by managing bookings, organising the cleaning rota, or just representing a group that uses the hall? Let us know if you are interested, or come along to the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 19 April to hear our suggestions for the future.

Caroline Lane – Aston Abbotts Village Hall trustees

Aston Abbotts Village Hall Trustees group: Caroline Lane (Chair), Liz Hall (Secretary), Nigel Palmer (Treasurer), Peter Shorrocks, John Whyte, Kevin Copping. Email: [astonabbottsvillagehall@yahoo.com](mailto:astonabbottsvillagehall@yahoo.com)

## **Music in Quiet Places Sunday 4 June, 7.30pm**

**St James's Church, Aston Abbotts**

Maddy Aldis-Evans - Oboe

Gillian Secret - Violin

Robert Secret - Viola

Julian Metzger - Cello

Concert to include the Quartet for oboe and strings by Mozart

Tickets £12 & £10  
concessionary

Order your tickets from

Caroline Lane,  
[carolinelane@btinternet.com](mailto:carolinelane@btinternet.com)

Tel. 01296 681373

Preceded by Village walk led by  
Colin Higgs at 6.30pm



## ***Your Letters*** **Aston Abbotts** **Broadband**

Hi Pete

Just a helpful comment (hopefully) regarding the latest Broadband message on the 'postie'.

We thought it may be helpful, due to the frequent comments on the 'postie' and in the chronicle, to let you know what speed we get, without any fancy equipment/technology, just as an indication to others.

Download Speed: 11.2meg (Wireless). We originally had a download speed of 2meg, but after having the Master socket checked/replaced for a modern one (the other was over 7 years old), we achieved 4 meg.

Since then, however, after replacing our Router (which stopped working, and again was approx 7 years old, which I didn't think was very old!), we now achieve 11.2meg!!

Any houses that are not getting at least 5meg download speeds, should report this to their provider, and arrange an Openreach engineer to come and have a look.

Hope this helps. **Emma**

My name is Simon.

I am offering my services for anything to do with animals. I can walk your dog/s. I can look after your pets and house while you are away. I can feed your animals when you are not there. Or let me know if you have any other animal requirements.

I have a lot of experience with animals. I have previously worked as a pet sitter. I have worked at rescue centres and zoos. And I've had a lot of experience working with dogs and walking them, especially ones with problems, such as nervous or aggressive ones, that maybe other dog walkers won't walk. I live in Aston Abbotts, so nice and local

If you are interested, please contact **Simon**.

mobile: 07792 313486  
or home: 01296 682785. email  
me  
at:[simoncowie1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:simoncowie1@hotmail.co.uk)

***(Exert from an email I received following a meet up recently. I felt it relevant to include in our magazine as I do my bit campaigning for the protection of the Great British village pub.) (Ed).***

I've been thinking about what you said about village pubs and the devastating effect it has on villages when the local closes. You and I have seen it in Piddington and village pubs continue to struggle all over the country.

However what I wanted to add was how local residents who didn't support the local were up in arms when it was in the process of closing. Do you remember how many people there were at the special council meeting, but were strangers to the pub?

Pete, if the village fails to support its pub it should be prepared for its closure and the effect it has on their house values. Piddington is a bit of a nothing village now.

We try to compensate for losing our special venue, the Seven Stars but it's not the same. I hope your village doesn't go down the same road.

**Kevin**

*Resident of Piddington  
Oxfordshire (Ed)*

## **Saving Bees**

I am writing to you as a contact for a council or other body in the area covered by Mid Bucks beekeepers.

Every year in conjunction with the BBKA we play our part in the collection of honeybee swarms throughout the UK. Mid Bucks beekeepers have been very successful in recent years collecting on average over 100 swarms per year. Most of this success has been due to the help we have

received from local councils and other organisations in informing and educating the general public. Research has shown that swarms that are not collected and allowed to find their own nest sites have only a 30% chance of surviving for a year. This falls to less than 10% for surviving 2 winters.

**Brian Bush** MBBKA swarm officer.

One of the main causes of these losses is the varroa mite that infests almost all bee colonies. Beekeepers can treat these mites and reduce their effect on bees and increase the chances of survival.

As a beekeeping association we run a dedicated swarm line during the summer months. The line becomes active on April 1<sup>st</sup>. this year. Once again I am asking you to publicise this important service locally. Will you try and help by spreading the information via your website, newsletters or by printing the attached poster and placing it on notice boards etc. where the public will see it. Thank you in advance for your vital help.

# ***The Astonians***

## **astonpete**

Got out of bed this morning, opened the curtains and saw 100 to 150 soldiers running through the village followed by an artillery vehicle. At first I thought, 'oh no, they've abolished the Monarchy!' But then realised it was an exercise from the Horton Garrison. Normal activity followed when I saw the old bird from down the road posting a letter with her gusset showing around her knees!

### **Gossip from The Library**

Scandal has hit Aston Abbotts. I'm gobsmacked by the scoop. Boring Bill, the farmer from Aston Road was in a rage I'm told by my source at the mobile library.

Fritzy, his daughter of 16, is pregnant and Bill thinks its Hugo First, the little village gobshite, who has impregnated his daughter.

The librarian said that Bill had driven to the First's

household and banged on the door. Hugo's nine year old brother, Tristen, had opened the door. "Is your dad or mum home?" said Bill. "No they went to Aylesbury" said Tristen. "What about your brother Hugo? Is he here?" asked Bill. "No, he went with Mum and Dad", the boy is said to have answered. Boring Bill is said to have stood there, shifting from one foot to the other and mumbling to himself.

"I know where all the tools are, if you want to borrow one, or I can give Dad a message" said Tristen.

"Well," said Bill, frustrated by the situation, "I really wanted to talk to your Dad. It's about your brother Hugo getting my daughter Fritzy pregnant".

Tristen, being the cleverer and more enterprising one out of Hugo and himself, thought for a moment. "You would have to talk to Dad about that. I know he charges £500 for the bull and £50 for the pig but I don't know how much he charges for Hugo."

## *Theatre Goes*



### **ROUND THE HORNE**

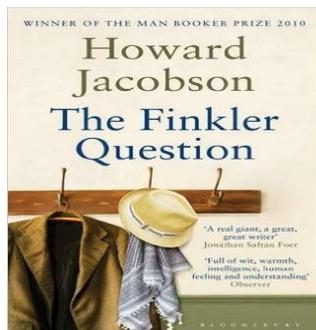
John and I were the lucky couple who got tickets to see the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tour of Round The Horne at Waterside on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February courtesy of the Theatre Goers press tickets.

Back in 1965 on the 7<sup>th</sup> March this brand new comedy show, written by Barry Took and Marty Feldman, was first aired on the radio. The show, which was hosted by Kenneth Horne, with a cast of Kenneth Williams, Hugh Paddick, Betty Marsden and Bill Pertwee, brought a new chaotically hilarious programme unlike

anything previously experienced to the country and became cult listening.

On Monday it was good to find the theatre was well attended, and along with the rest of the audience we were soon laughing out loud, enjoying the performance of a brilliant cast, who sounded and acted so like to the original artists. Along with great deliveries of Kenneth Williams popular creations 'Julian and his friend Sandy' and other Round the Horne outlandish characters such as Dame Celia Molestrangler, the show included a movie spoof, a musical interlude, and magazine style sections featuring all the regular characters in a variety of jobs and positions. It was entertaining from beginning to end and may now have generated new fans. Thank you. John and Pam Dixon

## Book Club



Twelve members of Aston Abbotts Book Club met at Deirdre Whyte's home on Wednesday 15 February, to discuss *The Finkler Question* by Howard Jacobson.

This novel, set in London, chronicles the friendship of three older men, Julian Treslove, Sam Finkler and Libor Sevcik - who had been Sam and Julian's teacher.

After meeting for dinner one evening Treslove is assaulted and believed that his attacker had referred to him as a Jew. Which he is not. This sparks a long-running obsession with Jewish people (whom he refers to as 'Finklers'), history and culture. Treslove sets out to discover why he was thought to be a Jew, what it means to be a

Jew and whether he could or should become one. He seeks help and answers from his Jewish friends Sam and Libor. Treslove starts a relationship with Hephzibah, the great-grandniece of Libor, and is also haunted by a brief adulterous affair with Tyler, Finkler's deceased wife.

The novel ends sadly and the gaps in their relationships are revealed.

Overall the book was not well received. Most members found it very hard going and somewhat tedious, the Jewish humour was not appreciated enough to make up for the lack of plot and the main characters were not generally likeable.

It did however provoke a good discussion about many aspects of Judaism, anti-Semitism and Israel. The book won the Booker Prize in 2010 but most of the book club members failed to see how!

Shalom.

Friendly local tennis club at  
Cublington – est. 25 years!

Join us for coaching, members'  
events, or just use the courts

**FREE Open Day Sunday 30  
April, 1-4pm – just turn up**

Low annual membership rates  
– Free floodlights

Two hard courts – Online  
booking system

Orchard Ground, Stewkley  
Road, Cublington

More information from  
Caroline Lane, 681373

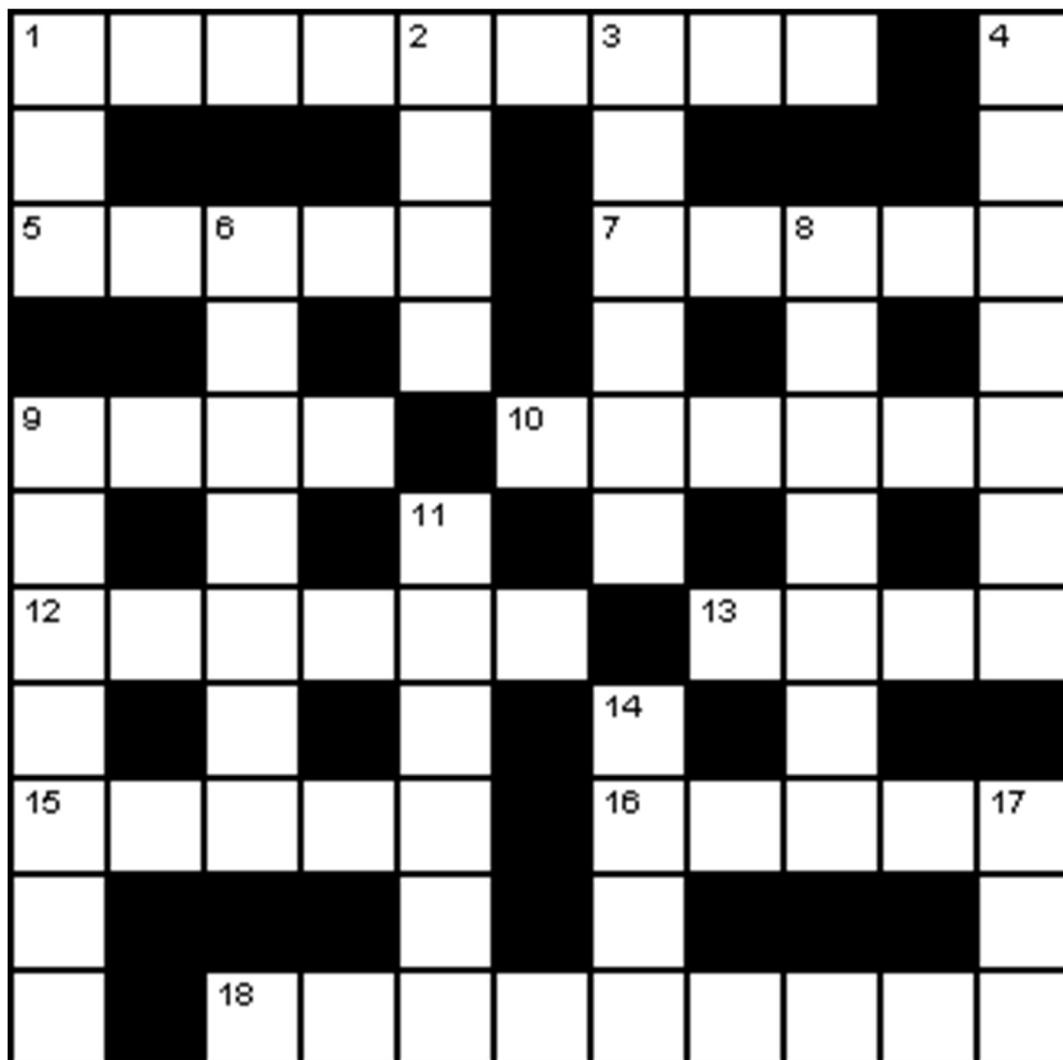
[carolinelane@btinternet.com](mailto:carolinelane@btinternet.com)

[http://www.cublington.com/?page\\_id=73](http://www.cublington.com/?page_id=73)

## **Stockdale Household Cleaning Services. Minimum 2 hours Call Jeremy 07871587126**



## Crossword



### Across

- 1. Oily or greasy (9)
- 5. Bet (5)
- 7. Young eel (5)
- 9. Land measure (4)
- 10. Sultry (6)
- 12. Dairy product (6)
- 13. Hex (4)
- 15. Crowd scene actor (5)
- 16. Hidden drawback (5)
- 18. Accumulated (9)

### Down

- 1. Cutting tool (3)
- 2. Remedy (4)
- 3. Wildcat (6)
- 4. Contradiction in terms (7)
- 6. Article of clothing (7)
- 8. Findings of a jury (7)
- 9. Of times long past (7)
- 11. Attack (6)
- 14. Dull pain (4)
- 17. Concealed (3)

***Solution inside magazine***

## **ALLOTMENT DIARY**



After the double ration on my allotment diary last month, caused by one of the article not appearing in the January issue, I will try to be brief this month!

As always around this time of year, I was embarrassed by hearing two of my fellow parish councillors discussing the fact that they had already planted their first early potatoes, before the middle of March, when I had not even dug my allotment! However, the first digging has now been done (thanks to Adam and his rotavator), and I hope to start spreading compost during the coming week. I should have the first earlies in before the end of March. I mentioned in a recent article that I had experimented

by only digging up part of my potato crop when I needed it, rather than digging the whole crop up in the autumn. Well, I have discovered another benefit from doing this, which is that by leaving the soil around these potatoes undisturbed in the autumn, I got far less weeds; and when I eventually dug the crop up, in December and January, the disturbed soil did not attract any weeds at all. My allotment thus had fewer weeds on it this year than I can ever remember.

While I normally rotate my crops each year, I had so few carrots grow last year in my laboriously erected carrot cage, that I have come to the conclusion that the few that did grow will not affect the soil, and I am taking the risk if leaving the cage where it is, and growing carrots there again this year – which will save me a few hours' work taking the cage down and re-erecting it.

Having no more news from the allotments, let me give you some vegetable related news: researchers in Bath University have discovered that eating the equivalent of one large potato or three bananas during a long distance race could help runners to run faster, and avoid “hitting the wall”. Apparently 60g of carbohydrates an hour during exercise prevents a fall in liver glycine stores – which helps control blood sugar control and delay fatigue. It has to be admitted, however, that most runners will be inclined to use bananas to get this effect, rather than eating a bag of chips!

On the subject of potatoes it is claimed in a Food Report published by DEVRA that changing tastes, and the trend for “carb-free” diets has sent potato sales plummeting. We are, it seems, eating 20% fewer potatoes than 10 years ago, and the trend is accelerating with sales down by almost 7%

in the last 3 years! However, it is not just healthy diets that are the cause: sales of chips and crisps are steady. Nevertheless, the average Briton still eats about 100kg of potatoes each year, making it very much the most popular vegetable despite this slump. Curiously the decline is not happening elsewhere: in China, for example, consumption of potatoes is rocketing.

Another thing the report highlighted was that the amount of fruit and vegetables which Britons grow themselves in gardens and allotments has risen steeply, rising by a quarter between 2014 and 2015 – and now accounts for 3.8% of all the fruit and vegetables we eat. This is the highest percentage since the Second World War, when the “Dig for Victory” slogan encouraged the British population to grow around 20% of the fruit and vegetables that were eaten.

Finally the John Innes Centre is well on the way to producing a variety of broccoli which can consistently be grown on our climate, so obviating the need to import this vegetable from places like Spain, where a sudden spell of very bad weather can prevent the crop from maturing, and thus create the Great Broccoli Shortage of a couple of months ago.

**Peter Shorrock**

### ***Crossword Solution***

S	E	B	A	C	E	O	U	S		P	
A				U		C				A	
W	A	G	E	R		E	L	V	E	R	
		A		E		L		E		A	
A	C	R	E		T	O	R	R	I	D	
N		M		A		T		D		O	
C	H	E	E	S	E		J	I	N	X	
I		N		S		A		C			
E	X	T	R	A		C	A	T	C	H	
N				I		H				I	
T			C	O	L	L	E	C	T	E	D

*invitation*

**THINKING OF LETTING  
OR SELLING?**

This is your personal invitation to receive a  
Free Valuation of your property and to discuss the marketing of  
your home with one of our experienced Directors.



To accept this invitation simply telephone or call in to our office to arrange a  
convenient appointment. Call 01296 398555 or visit [www.mortimersaylesbury.co.uk](http://www.mortimersaylesbury.co.uk)

## **News from Abbotts View Farm**



Work has started on Abbotts View Farm Cattery and we are hoping to be open for our first furry guests by late Spring/early Summer.

[www.abbottsviefarmcattery.co.uk](http://www.abbottsviefarmcattery.co.uk) for updates or we are also on Facebook.

Jo has a few spaces left on her Learn to Needlefelt Workshop on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April (we're making hedgehogs using fibre from our alpacas and rare breed sheep). £25 per person to include tuition, materials and homemade cakes and refreshments, plus a chance to meet our animals!

[www.abbottsviefalpacos.co.uk/needlefelting-workshops](http://www.abbottsviefalpacos.co.uk/needlefelting-workshops) to book. We are opening our gates for our annual Easter Open Day on Good Friday 14<sup>th</sup>

April, 11am-4pm. There will be plenty to see (including piglets from our rare breed pigs) and they'll be an Easter Treasure Hunt and Easter Craft Activities for the little ones. We are planning a BBQ with sausages and lamb burgers from our own rare breeds as well as Jo's famous homemade cakes. There will be a Tomobola, "Guess the name of the Alpaca" along with our "Meet and Greet the animals" sessions and a tractor/machinery display. Entry is just £3 per adult and £2 per child.

We have a few spaces left on our Easter Sunday Alpaca walk, full details and bookings via our website

[www.abbottsviefalpacos.co.uk](http://www.abbottsviefalpacos.co.uk)

And finally, we will have meat from our rare breed sheep and pigs available soon – we'll send an email round robin on the postbox to let you know when it is available and to take orders!

**Aston Abbotts Horticultural Society AUTUMN SHOW**  
**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2017 Village Hall, Aston Abbotts**  
**Staging of exhibits between 10.00 and 11.30**

**SCHEDULE OF CLASSES**

**SECTION 1 – Classes 1 – 9**

1. Beans, Runner – 4 pods
2. Beetroot – 3, with 7.5 cm tops
3. Carrots – 4 with 5 cm stalks
4. Tomatoes – 4 with stalks
5. Potatoes – 4 any variety
6. Onions – 3 any variety
7. Courgettes - 3
8. A plate of 10 soft fruits
9. Apples – 3 any dessert variety

**SECTION 2 – DOMESTIC CLASSES**

10. Signature Challenge - 4 Cheese scones
11. Technical Challenge - Chocolate Cake (made according to the [recipe](#) overleaf)
12. Showstopper - A Lemon Drizzle Cake - own recipe
13. Floral arrangement: "Harvest Festival" in a vase
14. A Jar of Marmalade (labelled with fruit used)
15. A Jar of Jam/Jelly (labelled with fruit used)
16. Hand knitted garment (any size)
17. A Photograph - "The wildlife of Aston Abbotts"

**SECTION 3 – JUNIOR CLASSES up to age 14**  
**(Age up to 8 for classes 18 & 19 must be given on entry form)**

18. An animal made out of vegetables
19. A painting of a flower
20. 3 small decorated cup cakes
21. A Photograph – “Sunset over Aston Abbots”

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## **AWARDS**

Aston Abbots Coupe de Légumes – Most points in Vegetable Section – Classes 1-9

The Great Aston Abbots Bake Off Trophy – Most points in Domestic Section – Classes 10 - 12

Rosettes for Winners and Runners-up in each section

## **REGULATIONS FOR SHOWING**

1. All classes are open to all persons.
2. All exhibits, unless provided in the additional regulations, must have been grown or made by the exhibitor.
3. Only one entry per person per class.
4. There will be an entry fee charge for sections 1 & 2 of £1 per class.
5. Entries must be staged between **10.00 and 11.30 am** on the day of the Show.
6. Exhibitors should collect Show Cards from the Show Secretary. Cards to be placed face downwards in front of the exhibit. It is helpful if varieties are labelled.
7. No exhibitor is permitted to move another exhibitor's entry. A show steward must be contacted.
8. Exhibitors should consult members of the Committee present at the staging of exhibits on any queries as to the correct class for particular exhibits.
9. Property is displayed at the exhibitor's risk.
10. Judging will take place between **11.45 am and 12.30pm**.
11. Points will be awarded: 1st – 3 points, 2nd – 2 points, 3rd – 1 point.

12. There will be monetary prizes for Junior Entries only: 1st - 50p, 2nd -40p, 3rd -30p. Prize money may be collected from the Show Secretary from 3.00pm onwards.
13. Any disputes will be settled by Colin – you have been warned.
19. Members of the public will be admitted from 12.30pm. Entry will be free. Donations accepted towards costs.
20. Trophies, medals & certificates – presented at 3.30pm.
21. Exhibits must not be removed until 4.00pm.

### **ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS**

1. Exhibits in class 13 and Junior Class 18 need not have been grown by the exhibitor.
2. Class 13 – accessories will be permitted. Exhibits to depict the title.

### **RECIPE**

#### **Mary Berry's Chocolate Cake**

For the **chocolate cake**:

- 3 large eggs
- 175g (6 oz) self-raising flour
- 175g (6 oz) caster sugar
- 175g (6 oz) softened butter
- 1½ level tsp baking powder
- 40g (1½ oz) cocoa powder
- 4 tbsp boiling water
- A little icing sugar, to serve

For the **chocolate spreading/ganache icing**:

- 150ml (5fl oz) double cream
- 150g (5oz) plain chocolate, broken into pieces
- 4 tbsp apricot jam

You'll also need:

2 x 17cm (7 in) deep sandwich tins, greased and lined with non-stick baking paper

## Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180C, gas 4.
2. Beat together the eggs, flour, caster sugar, butter and baking powder until smooth.
3. Put the cocoa in separate mixing bowl, and add the water a little at a time to make a stiff paste. Add to the cake mixture.
4. Turn into the prepared tins, level the top and bake in the preheated oven for about 20-25 mins, or until shrinking away from the sides of the tin and springy to the touch.
5. Leave to cool in the tin, then turn on to a wire rack to become completely cold before icing.
6. To make the icing: measure the cream and chocolate into a bowl and carefully melt over a pan of hot water over a low heat, or gently in the microwave for 1 min (600w microwave). Stir until melted, then set aside to cool a little and to thicken up.
7. To ice the cake: spread the apricot jam on the top of each cake. Spread half of the ganache icing on the top of the jam on one of the cakes, then lay the other cake on top, sandwiching them together.
8. Use the remaining ganache icing to ice the top of the cake in a swirl pattern.
9. Dust with icing sugar to serve.

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Extensive menu 7 days a week.

To Book 01296 681262

# Village Charity Quiz Night at the Royal Oak Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm



*Come and join the fun and frolics with the Quiz Guy. Cash Prize and the Dinner for 2 free draw plus the Parliamentary free tour draw.*

*Food Available*

***Who's Who when you need them.***

***Important numbers for Residents of Aston Abbotts***

Position	Name	Number
Chair Parish Council	Kate Curry	681137
Vice Chair Parish Council	Colin Higgs	681343
Councillor	Peter Shorrocks	681260
Councillor Recreation ground	Richard Clarke	681007
Councillor	Judy Hardcastle	688070
Councillor	Phil' Spooner	681544
Councillor	Simon Guy	681319
Parish Council Clerk	Zandy Ayres	682419
District Councillor	Peter Cooper	681250
County Councillor	Netta Glover	688357
Fete Co-ordinator	David Gray	681952
Vicar	Phillip Derbyshire	01525240287
Church Warden	Carol Abel- Smith	681001
Church Secretary	Caroline Lane	681373
Church Mowing	Gordon Kemp	681763
100 Club Treasurer	David Gray	681952
Bingo	Pam Dixon	681626
Book Club	Judy Hardcastle	688070
Chronicle Editor	Pete Lucas	681387
Chronicle Advertising Enquiries	Phil' Corrigan	688191
Chronicle Distribution	Marisa Abel- Smith	681411
Village Hall Hire	Tracy Hinds	688479
6.30 Club	Andy Bystra	681690

Gnomes	Carol Spooner	681544
Ladies Club	Shirley Ford	681865
Rambling Club & Whist Drive	Colin Higgs	681343
Rural Transport	Colin Higgs	681343
Baby & Toddler Group	Kim Gayler	681123
Royal Oak Pub & Restaurant	Teri Mould	681262
Milkman	Ron Miller	482838
Post office & shop Wingrave		682964

### ***Community Services***

NHS Direct 24hr Advice	111
Doctor Out of hours Surgeries	331511
Stoke Mandeville Hospital	315000
Police Non-Emergency	101
Police Station Wing	396163/4
AVDC	585858
Bucks County Council	395000
Citizens Advice	08701264056
MP John Bercow	714240
Mobile Library	01280813229
Refuse Collection	585510
Z & S Bus Service	415468
Anglian Water	385995
Pre School Wingrave	681127



There has been a recent rise of prank calls within Thames Valley.

The calls are pre-recorded generated responses giving the impression that recipients are actually speaking directly to someone.

The calls are not all the same. However one of the main scenarios has been described as an angry Scottish man claiming you are stealing his Wi-Fi.

Sometimes there is a mobile phone number showing and other times the number is withheld.

It appears that these calls are predominantly targeting elderly and young people and can cause alarm and distress to the call taker.

We urge people to take the following advice:

- Anyone with particular concerns can contact us on our Police non-

emergency number 101.

Otherwise ignore the call.

- You can contact your local phone provider who may be able to put a block on these types of calls.
- If you are getting calls at night you could put your phone on night mode or switch it off.

- **Online discussion - could you spot the signs of CSE?**

Today we are supporting National Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Awareness Day to help encourage everyone to think, spot and speak out against abuse.

CSE is a form of sexual abuse that involves the manipulation and/or coercion of young people under the age of 18 into sexual activity. Any child can be sexually exploited no matter where they're from or if they're a boy or a girl.

At 12.30pm on Wednesday (22/3), D/Supt Nick John, Head of TVP's Protecting Vulnerable People unit, will be hosting a live online discussion about CSE.

Aimed at parents, carers and those working with young people the online chat is open to all members of the public giving the opportunity for you to ask any questions you might have.

You can take part via our online discussion page.

### ***Is your shed secure – Aylesbury Vale***

Spring is here and many residents will be working in their garden. In the past, burglaries to sheds and outbuilding, start to increase in the spring and summer months. Thames Valley Police is asking residents to take a moment to think about the security of their outbuildings:-

You do not have to register and can ask your questions anonymously - <http://bit.ly/2nvSVr3>

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility so please join us to talk about how we can keep our children safe from harm.

- You can find out more information about CSE Awareness Day here - <http://www.stop-cse.org> email [aejcurnow@me.com](mailto:aejcurnow@me.com) and they will be delivered to you. Please book early as there are limited numbers.
- Make sure your sheds, outbuildings and garages are locked when not in use, by using strong padlocks.
- Consider fitting bars or locks to the windows.
- Use anti-tamper screws, to prevent doors being removed.
- Use a battery or mains operated shed alarm, which can be bought from

most DIY stores or garden centres.

- Consider using a strong box, anchored to the floor, to store smaller tools and lock bigger items, such as lawn mowers, bicycles etc to each other, or to the shed.
- Mark all your tools and equipment with your postcode, or you can purchase property marking kits, which uniquely identify property as being owned by you (further details on our website – link below).
- Make sure that anyone acting suspiciously is reported **immediately** to

the police. Where possible get a description of them, along with details of any vehicle they are using.

- If you are working in your garden make sure your doors are secure (both front and rear) when they are not in your direct view. Further crime prevention advice and information can be found on the [Thames Valley Police](#) website. You can also open the attached information (below). Please make sure that opportunist criminals are not benefiting from your work in your garden!

## ***What's on Everywhere in Aston Abbotts in April***

Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> 2pm	Rambling Club	Caldecote MK
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> 10-12 Midday	Coffee Shop	Village Hall
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> 7.30pm	Whist Drive	Village Hall
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Palm Sunday	
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> 2pm	Village Footpath Walk	The Green
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> 7.30pm	Village Charity Quiz Night	Royal Oak Pub
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> 10.30	Mobile Library	The Green
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Good Friday	
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Day	
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> 7.30pm	Residents Annual Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> 10-12 midday	Breakfast Coffee Shop	Village Hall
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> 7.30pm	Whist Drive	Village Hall
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> 7.30pm	Classic Film Night - Grease	Royal Oak Pub
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Spring Bank Holiday – Ascot Gardens open	Ascot House Wing

*This April at*



THE UNICORN  
CUBLINGTON



*Easter  
Sunday Lunch  
16th April*

A real family occasion. Now taking bookings from 12 noon.  
Including Easter Egg hunt for the kids in the garden from 2pm

*What's On*

**It's Fish Friday every Friday** – fish set menu

**Saturday 1st – No Joke! Breakfasts**

from 9.30am – 11.00am

**Sunday 2nd Lunch** – booking advised

**Monday 3rd – The Unicorn Quiz** from 8.30pm

**Thursday 6th – Steak Night**

– 2 steaks and a bottle of house wine for £40

**Friday 7th – Live Music**

with Mouth on a Stick from 8.30pm

**Saturday 8th Breakfasts** from 9.30am – 11.00am

**Sunday 9th Lunch** – booking advised

**Monday 10th – The Unicorn Quiz** from 8.30pm

**Thursday 13th – Steak Night**

– 2 steaks and a bottle of house wine for £40

**Saturday 15th Breakfasts** from 9.30am – 11.00am

**Easter Sunday 16th Lunch** – booking advised

**Easter Egg hunt** in the garden 2pm (time tbc)

**Easter Monday 17th – The Unicorn Quiz**

from 8.30pm

**Thursday 20th – Steak Night**

– 2 steaks and a bottle of house wine for £40

**Saturday 22nd Breakfasts** from 9.30am – 11.00am

**Sunday 23rd Lunch** – booking advised

**Monday 24th – The Unicorn Quiz** from 8.30pm

**Thursday 27th Steak Night**

– 2 steaks and a bottle of house wine for £40

**Plus Live Music** with Alison Carter Nesbitt singing Jazz

**Saturday 29th Breakfasts** from 9.30am – 11.00am

**Sunday 30th Lunch** – booking advised

All events subject to change

*Easter Egg hunt – 2pm on Easter Sunday at the Unicorn*

**01296 681261** *Booking always advisable*

Visit web site for full event details [www.theunicornpub.co.uk](http://www.theunicornpub.co.uk)

The Unicorn, High Street, Cublington, Bucks, LU7 0LQ



## ***Church Matters***



Dear friends,

Happy Easter to you all! It's quite late this year.

As you probably know the date of Easter wanders back and forth because it is tied to the celebration of Passover, the great Jewish festival of liberation from slavery in Egypt many hundreds of years before the earthly life of Jesus recorded in the New Testament.

Christmas is the 'lovely' season of our faith but Easter is the real heart of the matter and also the real challenge to our attitudes and behaviour.

Aside from being tasty and possibly fun eggs, chicks and rabbits have nothing to do with

the season other than as symbols of new life. Sadly this connection is rarely made and are just a great commercial opportunity for many already extremely rich people, but I guess that's what makes the world go round ... or is it? Enjoy the longer (and hopefully) warmer days of Spring/Summer.

God Bless. Philip.

### **FLOWERS FOR EASTER**

**SUNDAY. As in previous years, there will be an arrangement of lilies behind the altar dedicated to the memory of loved ones. If you would like to donate a lily, they will be £2.50 each. Please give cash and names to Caroline Abel Smith (681001) or put through The Old Vicarage letterbox by Palm Sunday (9<sup>th</sup> April).**

**The names of those to be remembered will be read out by the Revd Philip Derbyshire at our Easter Day Service on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30am.**

## Church Domestic Duties

Date	Cleaning	Flowers	Mowing
1 <sup>st</sup> April	Colin Caroline L	No Flowers	Mark
8th	Gordon/Ann	No Flowers	Adam
15th	Alex/Anita	Easter Flowers	Phil'
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Colin & Gay	Easter Flowers	Peter
29 <sup>th</sup>	TBA	TBA	Andrew

### ***St James Parish Church Mowing Rota.***

The Churchyard grass has been mowed by a team of volunteers for many years, however a number of members have dropped out of the rota due to their other commitments.

Therefore, we are looking to recruit some new volunteers to help with the mowing. The season is usually from March through to October. We try to get sufficient people so that the maximum number of "mows" per person per year is no more than 2. We currently have seven people therefore we are very

keen to recruit a few more volunteers -please can you help?

What's involved:-

- 2 to 3 hours of your time on your allocated weekend or just before the weekend
- Using the sit-on mower to cut most of the Churchyard - this machine mulches the cut grass so there are no grass cuttings to be "got" rid of!
- Using the hand mower on the steep slopes near the road and around some of the gravestones

If anyone feels able to offer their services please e-mail, telephone or send me a note at the address below so that training on the mowers can be arranged and your cutting dates allocated.

Gordon Kemp

4 Church Row, Aston Abbotts,  
Bucks HP22 4NA

Telephone 01296 681763

e-mail address -  
magnificat@waitrose.com

## **The diary of St. James's**

Gordon Kemp has given the grass in the churchyard its first cut of the year being careful to avoid the many bulbs that come up in the spring. We have lost one or two volunteers from the mowing rota this year so if anyone could give up a weekend morning every couple of months Gordon would like to hear from you.

We had a visit from the surveyor employed by our insurance company to check that we are complying with all the Health and Safety regulations and therefore represent a low risk to the company. We await his full

report but there were no major problems. This probably will not reduce our annual premium of £1,500 but at least it should not increase by more than a few percent as usual.

Looking further ahead we will have a 'Music in Quiet Places' concert in the Church on Sunday 4th June. More details in next month's Chronicle but tickets will be available from Caroline Lane. Also in June, following our breakfast/family service for Mothering Sunday on 26th March, we are planning a similar Father's Day event on Sunday 18th June.

The Novice

## ***Advertising In The Chronicle***

Annual Advertising rates (11 issues)

Full Page Back £100

Inside £90

Half Page Inside £50

Quarter Page Inside £35

One Offs Full £20

Half £15

Quarter £10

Seasonal and short term ads are also

accepted at these rates

Send copy and cheque payable to

'The Chronicle'

Phil Corrigan,

5, Nashs Farm, Aston Abbotts, Bucks.

01296 688191

corriganpc@aol.com

### **Address**

Please note that all Submissions for the Chronicle should be sent to  
Pete Lucas  
34, The Green, Aston Abbotts

Email submissions to:  
editor@aachronicle.co.uk

Please don't forget to tell us of any events that you would like included in the What's On list

### **Classified**

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[www.buckscommunitylibraries.org/wing/](http://www.buckscommunitylibraries.org/wing/)

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Mon	CLOSED
<b>Tue</b>	<b>14:00 - 19:00</b>
<b>Wed</b>	<b>10:00 - 13:00</b>
Thu	CLOSED
<b>Fri</b>	<b>14:00 - 17:00</b>
<b>Sat</b>	<b>10:00 - 13:00</b>
Sun	CLOSED

If you belong to any Buckinghamshire library then you can borrow or return books in Wing.

## Easter Opening Hours

The Library will be closed on Good Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April

## Children's activities

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> April we will have free craft sessions from 2.30 to 4.30 pm

Suitable for 5 to 10 year olds

**Notable Dates:** April 23<sup>rd</sup> St Georges Day  
Shakespeare Day



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[info@buckland-landscapes.co.uk](mailto:info@buckland-landscapes.co.uk)

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IN AID OF  
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*SATURDAY 15<sup>th</sup> JULY 2017*  
LIVE MUSIC  
“HUGGY FLARES”  
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*CHARITY AUCTION*  
*And “Roulette & Black Jack tables”*

*Starts 6.30pm*

*VENUE*

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*DRESS CODE: Black Tie*

*Wingrave Road ASTON ABBOTTS*

***TICKETS £65.00***

*Contact*

*Frank McManus 07771 882412*

*John Whyte 07988 001834*



# Aston Abbots Newly Refurbished Hall

